

NAURU'S POSTAL HISTORY

A Digital Alternative to Traditional Stamp Collecting



INTRODUCTION

1908 to 2022



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IMAGES OF NAURU



NAURU AIRLINES 737 (a photograph taken of VH – YNU Boeing 737 – 319 on the island's main runway)
Insert –A 40 cent stamp showing an Air Nauru F26 overflying Nauru the island



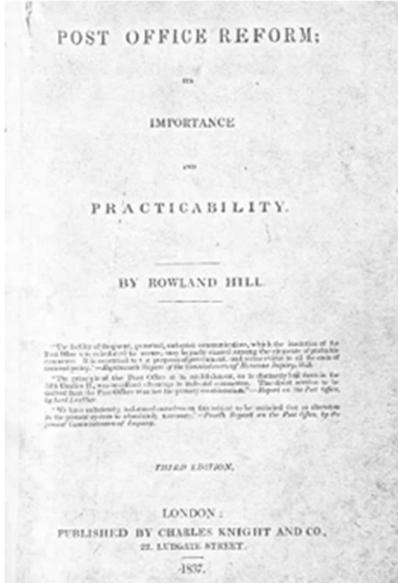
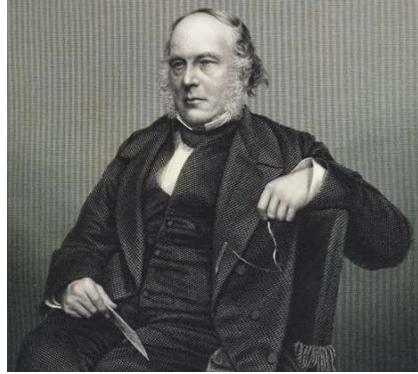
THE ISLAND OF NAURU, (a photograph taken from the port side of an Air Nauru flight looking westward)
Insert –A 25 cent stamp commemorating Air Nauru.
 (An Air Nauru F26 standing at the terminal)

GOVERNMENT HOUSE, (District of Yaren)



PHILATELY

The idea of using “a bit of paper just large enough to bear a stamp, and covered at the back with a glutinous wash” was first mentioned by Rowland Hill in his pamphlet, “Post Office Reform its Importance and Practicality.” Hill had complained in the British Parliament about the expensive and complex postal rates based on distance, the number of sheets in a letter and normally requiring payment by the recipient. He suggested, as an alternative, a low, uniform rate, based on weight.

Post Office Reform Pamphlet 1837	Penny Black The first adhesive stamp	Sir Rowland Hill (1795-1879)
 <p>by Sir Rowland Hill</p>	 <p>Margin notes</p> <p><i>In Wetting the Back be careful not to remove the cement</i></p> <p>PRICE 1^d Per Label.</p>	 <p>English teacher, inventor and reformer of the postal system.</p>

Beginning around 1855 with the introduction of the world's first adhesive postage stamp, the Penny Black, Philately evolved into the study of all aspects of postal paraphernalia, thus Philately is the study of postage stamps, stamped envelopes, postmarks, postcards, and other materials relating to postal deliveries. Some are listed or explained below.

- **Aero-philately**, postal history that specialises in the study of post sent by airmail and the development of air mail transport from its early beginnings,
- **Astro-philately** specialises in the study of stamps and postmarked envelopes connected to outer space.
- **Cancellations**, cancel or obliteration (French) is a postal marking applied to deface a stamp and prevent its reuse. The cancellation date may have historic significance such as the first day of issue of a stamp or some other historic event
- **Cover** is a term originating from the practice of covering a letter by folding a separate sheet over the contents to physically protect it from damage or prying eyes. In the 19th century the cover was often cut into a diamond or lozenge shape, a precursor to today's envelopes. The lozenge design was adopted for pre-paid postage envelopes and covers issued in 1840 after postal reforms were introduced by Rowland Hill.
- **CTO** (Cancelled to Order) is a stamp cancelled (marked as used), by the issuing postal service but that has not travelled through the post. Thus, the postal authority profits from the sale of the stamps without having to provide postal delivery services.
- **Die** is the original engraving of a stamp design, usually recess-engraved in reverse on a small flat piece of soft metallic plate. Stamps printed from a particular die can be identified by unique features, wear or flaws.
- **Die Proof Sets** are images printed directly from the master die. Colours often differ from the original printings to avoid confusion with legal postage or revenue stamps.
- **Engraving** is the practice of incising a design onto a die, by cutting grooves into it with a “burin.”
- **Fakes** or forgeries are stamps, covers or cancels that have been altered or concocted to appeal to a collector. This may include repairs, re-perforations, re-gumming, painting in cancels, bogus cancels, or entire faked covers.

- **Geography** relates to the locations of the printer, the country issuing the stamp, the post office selling the stamp, the address on the cover and the route the cover took to reach its destination
- **Gums** are one of the adhesive methods used to attach a stamp to the cover
- **History** or more specifically Postal History includes issue and cancellation dates of stamps or historic events depicted by the stamp's illustrations. Also, how the postal systems and associated materials have evolved and historical episodes of postal systems both before and after the introduction of the adhesive stamps. An example is the Pony Express, which was once the fastest way to send letters across the United States, covers carried by Pony Express are highly collectable
- **Letter locking** is "the process of folding and securing of letter substrates to become their own envelopes"
- **Manufacture** covers the papers, inks, manufacture and printing processes, plates, print runs and the like.
- **Overprinting** is anything added to the stamp after printing is completed. This excludes anything which changes the face value of a stamp, which is called surcharging
- **Paper** used for stamp manufacture, varies in composition, colour, texture, thickness, watermark, weight, surface finish, opacity, hardness and strength. Paper manufacturers include De La Rue, Jones, Cowan, Wiggins Teape, Waterlow, Esparto, Coarse and Pirie
- **Perforations** or separations evolved early in stamp printing history as a practical way of separating individual stamps from printed sheets. Measuring the Perforations can be used to identify otherwise identical stamps.
- **Postal stationery** includes stamped envelopes, post cards, letter sheets, aerogrammes (airletter sheets) and wrappers,
- **Printers** and printing methods are numerous and have become more sophisticated with each stamp issue. The main printing processes are Intaglio - Line Engraved; Photogravure, Relief - Typography and Surface Printed, Planographic - Lithography, offset Lithography, Photo-lithography and Embossing.
- **Revenue philately** is the study of stamps used to collect taxes or fees on such things as legal documents, court fees, receipts, tobacco, alcoholic drinks, drugs, medicines, playing cards, hunting licenses and newspapers.
- **Se-tenant** is a French word meaning joined together. It is used to describe two or more stamps, often of different designs, colours, denominations or types joined together, usually separated by Perforations.
- **Series**. A group of stamps of similar design or theme, such as Commonwealth Games, Sports, Birds or Fish.
- **Surcharge**, an overprint that changes or restates the face value or denomination of a stamp or item of postal stationery
- **Thematic philately**, also known as topical philately, is the study of the illustrations on individual stamps. These include, for example, birds, ships, poets, presidents, monarchs, maps, aircraft, spacecraft, sports, and insects.

STAMP COLLECTING

No collection is ever complete, as no collector could ever own every stamp or every piece of Postal History. Whatever the theme, all collections have one thing in common, the empty spaces left by those stamps or objects missing from the collection. All collections but one, for example, exclude the rarest stamp in the world (illustrated below).

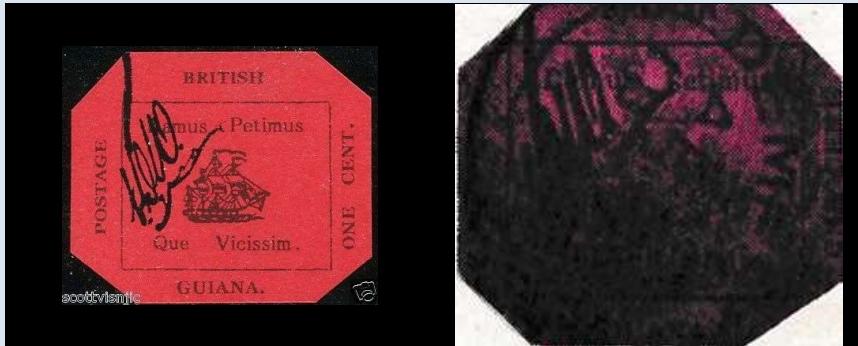
Every stamp is a unique blend of paper, inks, perforations, themes, printing processes, geography, history and use. Once in a collector's hands, storage is important to preserve the value of this fragile piece of history. Most stamp collections are held in Albums and whilst these do keep stamps safe, albums are bulky and difficult to handle. Justine Lallier printed the first commercial album in 1862 with many publishers adopting Lallier's design. Other custom-made albums have been produced over the years and a notable example was for George V's collection. This "Royal Philatelic Collection," consisting of 328 volumes, is stored in St. James Palace and was added to by Edward VIII, George VI, and Elizabeth II. Franklin Delano Roosevelt, 32nd president of the United States, was also a collector, as was his mother, and he managed his collection through his four terms in the White House. He maintained his own albums saying, "Working on the stamps myself provides all the fun of the hobby."

Stamp hinges, used to fix the stamp to the album pages, do untold damage to collected examples, especially if in mint condition. Hinges damage the gum, if later removed, the stamp could be torn or, at the very least permanently marked. Hinge-less albums or cellophane packets are a better storage media especially if the stamp is to be handled when viewed.

Although mint stamps tend to have a higher value many countries issue thematic stamps as a money making venture, knowing collectors would seek new issues. In most cases, print runs are huge and as issues are targeted at collectors few are actually used for the postal services. Hence some used theatics can be more valuable than the original mint issues. Similarly, unusual postmarks or obliterations may add value to a stamp; examples of both mint and used issues, when possible, are included in this collection

THE RAREST STAMP IN THE WORLD

British Guiana, One cent Similar copy and actual stamp



THE RAREST STAMP IN THE WORLD

The rarest stamp in the world is the One Cent 1856 black on magenta coloured paper of British Guiana. In appearance it is ugly and insignificant ; its condition is poor ; the corners are gone and it is dirty. Yet this apparent trifling scrap of paper, at an auction in Paris, sold for the staggering sum of over £6,000, plus a government tax of 17½%. In all, for a small fortune of £7,325.

The stamp was discovered in the year 1872, by a British Guiana boy, L. V. Vaughan, while looking through some old family letters in his home. Only a few of these stamps were printed, at the offices of the local newspaper "The Official Gazette," Georgetown, British Guiana ; and would never have been issued at all but for the fact that a supply of new stamps from England had failed to reach the colony. This one cent value had been completely forgotten for 16 years, until this local schoolboy found one on an old envelope. The has the initials of the local postmaster scribbled across it ; he and his assistants personally initialled all these provisional stamps to verify their authenticity, as they were so crudely printed. Young Vaughan sold the stamp to a local collector for 6/-, the most he dared to ask. The new owner's entire collection was sold to a Liverpool stamp dealer in 1878 for £110. This dealer picked out the one cent 1856 British Guiana, and sold it to a famous collector, Count Ferrary of Paris, for £125.

In 1917, thirty-nine years later, the French Government seized Ferrary's collection as alien property, as he was an Austrian citizen ; and the collection was sold in a series of fourteen great auctions between 1921 and 1925, for the almost unbelievable total of \$1,837,000. At one of these auctions, the late Arthur Hind, an American millionaire collector, acquired the British Guiana rarity at a price of \$38,025 (then £7,325). When Mr. Hind died the stamp was offered for sale at \$50,000 (then £10,000), and is now in the collection of another American whose identity has been kept secret to avoid publicity. It is estimated that if this priceless scrap of paper was sold today, it would fetch about \$100,000 (or £35,000).

People often wonder how such a little stamp can be worth such a large sum of money. The answer can be found in those two simple factors which determine the price of everything — supply and demand. In all the years since the British Guiana stamp was first discovered, no other copy has turned up. Meanwhile the world's stamp family has increased to a population of somewhere between ten and twenty million collectors and dealers, every one of whom would like to own this unique stamp. That accounts for the extravagant price which was paid for it.

Today, images of 'virtually' every stamp or item of postal history still in existence, are available on used covers, through bulk purchases of used stamps, auction sites, websites like E-bay, "HipStamp" (Hip eCommerce), online digitised collections, chat rooms or other image internet sites like 'Pinterest.'

By downloading images or using low-cost, high-quality scanners, printers and electronic storage, your own unique collection will be the most complete digital collection of your chosen subject ever, including, if you wish, the rarest stamp in the world.

Layout or content of the collection is personal to the collector but the flexibility of digital storage allows images to be changed, resized or placed in a different order at will.

The obvious order for stamp collecting is country, date and face value but could also be by, theme, colour, perforations, die, post marks or water marks; other areas where the collector can add their own touch is by adding more details of history or geography. As better images become available, the collection may also be updated with images from other collectors or collections

Printing out a hard copy of the digital collection is optional and more expensive but will produce your own unique Album into which actual stamps may be added; mounted beside or over an image either using stamp hinges, cellophane pouches or purpose made transparent sheets, obtainable in several grid layouts matching your digital images.

COPYRIGHT

Here on earth, no one owns everything; but almost everything is owned by someone and that includes intellectual property. To ensure the protection of intellectual property copyright laws were introduced and are enforceable. Copyright is not a right to copy; it is the legal right of the original creator to own their intellectual property. Only they, or persons authorised by them, have the exclusive right to reproduce their work.

Whether it is words, phrases, formats, pictures or paintings someone will hold the copyright. Copyrights may expire after a set period but before copying anything, check to see if it is free of copyright, or receive the authorisation of the owner. Digital images of pre 1945 British Commonwealth postage stamps, having been Government produced, are free of copyright but the laws of individual countries may modify this rule. Later issues could be covered under the 'fair use' rule, which applies to copying for the purpose of criticism, review, news reporting, research or private study.

Within this digital album all stamp images are scans of actual stamps or internet images of stamps from online dealers catalogues as listed below, or other websites. Photographs are from internet sites stating images are copyright free, with the hyperlink to the site included, images may be replaced in Word.docx as required, all are reproduced here under the 'Fair Use' rule for *the purposes of comment, teaching, scholarship, and research*.

NUMBERING SYSTEMS

Since numbering systems of stamps and their variations in other Catalogues are copyright it is advisable to devise your own numbering system using a sequential numbering system starting, say, from A#1, it would be hard for any entity to claim such a system as their copyright. The numbering system adopted throughout this album is unique to the album thus avoiding other copyrights or patents.

SOME ON LINE CATALOGUES

Wikipedia currently lists 90 International Stamp Catalogues and a sample of some English language versions include:

-
- Australasian stamp catalogue (Australia)
- Campbell Paterson (CP, New Zealand)
- Colnet.com
- Comprehensive Colour Catalogue of Australian Stamps
- Find Your Stamps Value (online only); (specializing in US, UK, and other stamps)
- Freestampcatalogue
- Len Jury Stamp catalogue - New Zealand
- Stamps NZ - New Zealand
- Scott catalogue (USA)
- Stamp World
- Stanley Gibbons (SG, UK)

For convenience stamps are cross-referenced against other Catalogue numbering system such as: -

Michel (Mi), Yvert et Tellier (Yt) Stanley Gibbon (SG), Seven Seas Stamps (Sev) and Colnect (colnect.com), all provide comprehensive listings.

TRADITIONAL ALBUMS

Whilst almost anything will do as a stamp album when first starting a collection, more serious collectors will have their own preferences. Early albums for example, were bound into books with pages glued, sewn or stapled together and had separate pages for each important country.

More recently loose-leaf format albums have become popular. These give flexibility allowing more pages per country or issue and easily removable pages. The advantage of such 'ring binders,' as they are called, is that they allow the pages to lie flat when opened. It is also possible to buy additional pages or have the names of various countries printed at the top. It is also possible to buy blank pages headed with titles such as 'Sporting Themes', or 'Ships' for collectors specializing in one type of stamp, called a 'Thematic' collection.

Then there are stock sheet albums, loose leaf folders with several strips of plastic running across forming wide pockets to slip stamps into. Pages may be single sided, having pockets on one side only while others are double sided having pockets on both sides of the page.

THE LAYOUT OF THIS ANNOTATED DIGITAL COLLECTION

This collection is annotated, meaning explanatory notes or comments are added and illustrated, meaning a digital image of the stamp is included. It is separated into Albums; Album 1 is a Simplified Album while Albums 2 & 3 are more detailed. Templets are also included for in depth studies of individual stamps etc. By using a word processing programme these original file layout and illustrations can be changed to suit the user.

DIGITAL ALBUM FORMATS

A Digital alternative to Traditional Stamp Collecting

ALBUM 1 - A SIMPLIFIED ILLUSTRATED ALBUM OF NAURU'S POSTAGE STAMPS

This Album is sorted by date, theme and face value as shown in the illustration below. Stamps with minor variations are omitted, although additional stamps can be added using a Word Processor as required.



If a hard copy of this album is printed out and filed in a ring binder the image of each stamp may be overlaid with an actual stamp using stamp hinges or, ideally, cellophane pouches or transparent sleeves.

ALBUM 2 - DIGITAL STAMP IMAGES COVERING NAURU'S COLONIAL ERA &

ALBUM 3 - REPUBLIC OF NAURU DIGITAL STAMP IMAGES

These detailed collections include images of mint and, when possible, used or variation stamps as shown in the example below. Each stamp is identified by a number sequence unique to the album, the face value and a description together with other catalogue codes, colours and themes. **Album 2** covers Nauru's colonial era while **Album 3** covers issues from the formation of the Republic of Nauru.

# RON 140	(50c)	Mint Se-tenant example
Fifty Cents Nauru Independence 1968 Other Catalogue code: Mi: 218Zf,		

Again, since the collection is digital details may be added to at will. Additional images, variations or errors stamps may be added without changing the number sequence by adding a letter suffix. In this example, # RON 140, a se-tenant stamp, could be distinguished by the addition of a suffix e.g., # RON 140 (a)

INDIVIDUAL DETAILED STUDIES

An example of a more detailed study is provided below; this can be used as a Template for other in depth studies where the genesis of a stamp can be collated using information obtained from other sources including:-

Condition Country Cover Die or Printing plate	Face Value Issue Date Issue variations Paper	Perforations Printer Re-sale value Size	Theme or Emission Watermark
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INDIVIDUAL DETAILED STUDY – LOADING PHOSPHATE FROM CANTILEVER

Catalogue numbers:

RON 3 - # QEII 22 (Overprint)

Michel	57
Yvert et Tellier	57
Stanley Gibbons	68
Seven Seas Stamps	57

Country of Issue: Nauru

Stamp title: Loading Phosphate from Cantilever

Stamp Types:

Air Mail
Commemorative

Definitive Stamp

Fiscal

Official

Overprint

Postage due

Pictorial

Revenue

Semi-postal (Health)

Specimen

Thematic

Description

Colours Bluish green

Face Value Three cents (3c)

Illustration Ship loading cantilever, (Number 1)

Series New Currency

Size 31 x 28.5 mm

Theme Mining

Watermark: None


History

Cancellation Date Mint

Issue Date 25 May 1966

Print run

Designer

Die

Engraver

Paper Helecon

Perforations Comb 13 3/4 x 14 1/2

Printers Note Printing Branch, Reserve Bank of Australia

Printing Type Recess

Ship loading at the Number 2 Cantilevers


Geography

Printed Australia

Location of Image on Stamp Aiwo Cantilever Set 1

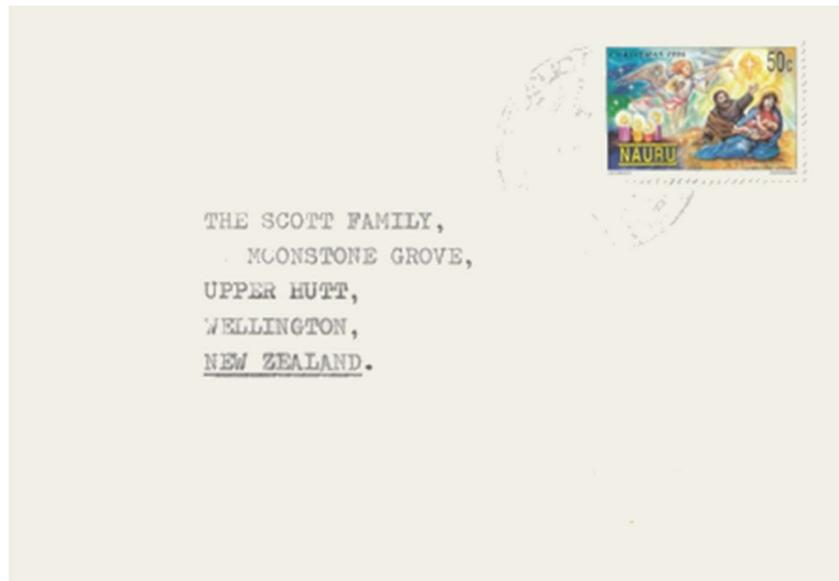
Location of Photograph Aiwo Cantilever Set 2

Variants: Overprint Republic of Nauru

Other features Photo taken from the Beach looking South West

COVERS WITH STAMPS STILL ATTACHED

Such a cover must be the most comprehensive form of used stamp collecting as it tells the whole life history of the stamp from origin to destination. The cover retains postal information such as an address, postmark, post code, carriage routes, (such as airmails) or registration marks. Later damage from using stamp hinges or as a result of removal from the cover is avoided. In some examples only part of the cover remains, reducing bulk, but also much of the provenance of the stamp. Problems of bulkiness is eliminated with the digital form of collection.



A 1996 Christmas stamp sent to the Author's previous address in New Zealand

FIRST DAY COVER

A First Day Cover is a specially designed envelope, bearing newly issued postage stamps, postmarked on the first day the stamps were placed on sale. Three elements define a First Day Cover; the envelope, the postmarks and the Stamps; all signifying the release of a newly created stamp.

Souvenir or Commemorative Covers differ in that they are issued to coincide with the date of a specific event or anniversary. Over the years they became more elaborate and colourful often with an illustration, commonly referred to by collectors as a cachet, to make them more collectable.



1978 FIRST DAY COVER AND DEFINITIVES STUDY

Catalogue numbers of stamps

RON 94 - #Ron 98

Mi: 172, Yt: 168,
Sg: 184, Sev: 172

Description

Cover	Illustrated in Black and Red on white
Stamps	Multicoloured
Face Value	Two Dollars and Fifty-Two cents (\$2.52)
Illustration	Coral Pinnacles
Series	Birds and Pinnacles on Nauru
Size of stamps	Various
Theme	Views of Nauru

History

Issue Date 17/5/1978
Cancellation Date 17/5/1978

Manufacture (Stamps)

Designer	David Gentleman:
Die	
Paper	
Perforations	Comb 14½
Printers	Harrison & Sons Ltd.
Printing Type	Photogravure

Geography (Stamps)

Printed High Wycombe, England
Location of Image Topside (Cover) and beach scenes (Stamps)
Destination of cover Cover never sent through the Mail

Other features

Un-addressed cover so the CTO is for collectors only



1994 SOUVENIR COVER AND STAMP STUDY – 15TH COMMONWEALTH GAMES

Catalogue numbers of stamp

RON 353

Michel 402

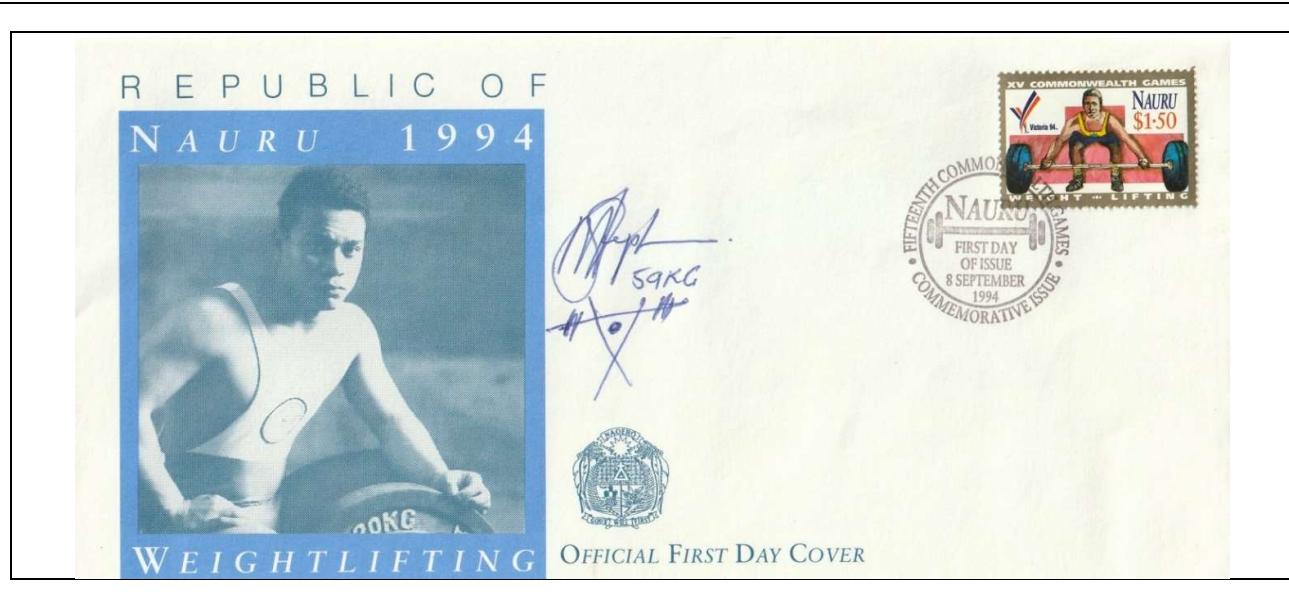
Yvert et Tellier 394

Stanley Gibbons 421

Seven Seas Stamps 401

Country of Issue Nauru

Title: 15th Commonwealth Games



Description

Cover	Illustrated in Blue on white
Stamp	Multicoloured
Face Value	One Dollar Fifty (\$1.50)
Illustration	Marcus Stephen at the Commonwealth Games
Series	15 th Commonwealth Games
Size of stamp	
Theme	Sports – Weightlifting

History

Issue Date	8 September 1994
Cancellation Date	8 September 1994

Manufacture (Stamp)

Designer	Richard Innes
Die	No 1
Engraver	
Paper	
Perforations	Comb 14 x 14 3/4
Printers	McPherson's Printing Group, Mulgrave
Printing Type	Offset lithography

Geography

Printed	Mulgrave, Australia
Location of Image	Victoria, in the province of British Columbia in Canada,
Destination of cover	Cover never sent through the Mail

Other features

Cover signed by Marcus Stephen with his gold medal winning weight of 59 Kgs noted

1995 COMMEMORATIVE COVER AND STAMPS STUDY

Catalogue numbers of stamp

RON 366 and #RON 367

Michel NR A423

Yvert et Tellier NR 417

Stanley Gibbons NR 442

Seven Seas Stamps NR 423

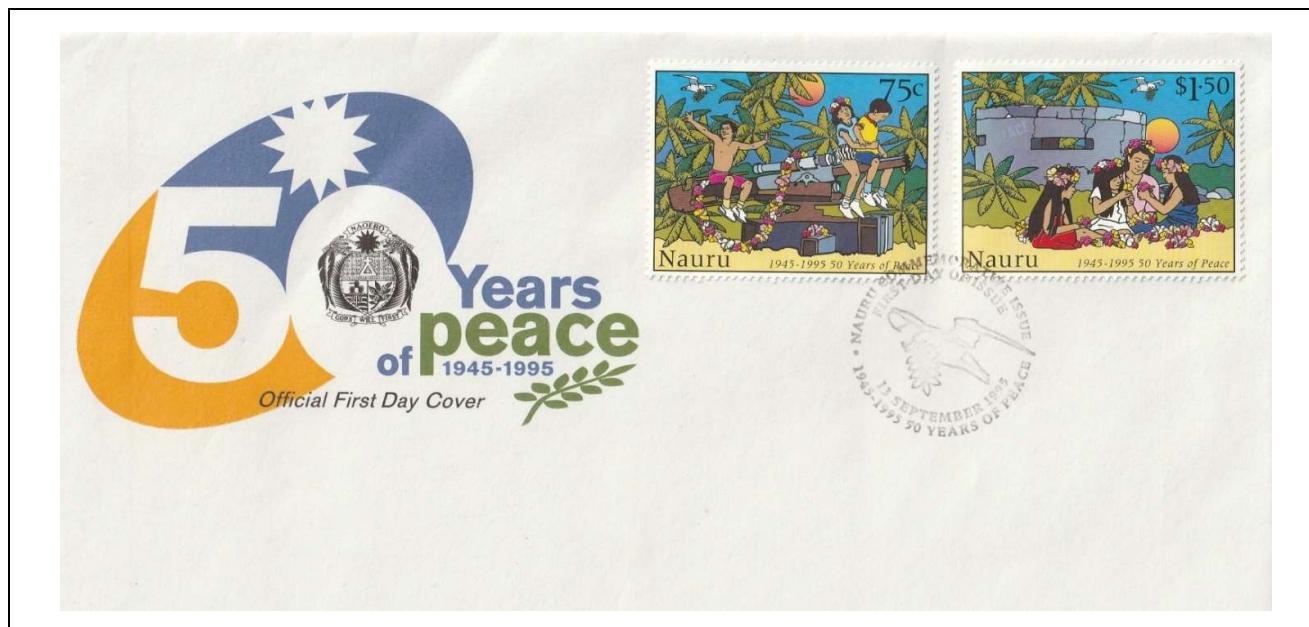
Country of Issue

Nauru

Title:

50 Years of Peace

50th Anniversary of the End of World War II



Description

Cover	Multicoloured on white
Stamps	Multicoloured
Face Values	Seventy five cents and One dollar fifty (\$2.25)
Illustration	Nauru Coat of Arms over a and representation of the flag of Nauru
Series	End of WW2
Size of stamps	
Theme	Peace

History

Issue Date	13 th September 1995
Cancellation Date	13 th September 1995

Manufacture (Stamp)

Designer	Passmore Design
Die	No 1
Engraver	
Paper	
Perforations	13
Printers	House of Questa
Printing Type	Offset lithography

Geography

Printed	London
Location of Image	Nauru
Destination of cover	Cover never sent through the Mail

Other features

CTO Cancellation

A BRIEF EARLY HISTORY AND POSTAL BEGINNINGS OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAURU

The Republic of Nauru is the world's smallest island nation existing on a single isolated raised atoll located just South of the equator at longitude of 166°55' East. Believed to have been inhabited for 3000 years the Islanders enjoyed a long period of relative isolation. Although visited by the English sea Captain John Fearn on 8 Nov 1798, who named it Pleasant Island, extensive contact with Europeans did not occur before the 1830's, when the whaling industry expanded into eastern Micronesian waters.

Nauru became a port of call for vessels in search of food and water supplies and a small number of Europeans settled on the island, bringing with them alcohol, firearms, and disease, to the detriment of the population. Encouraged by German traders, considering their own interests, Nauru was declared a German protectorate on 16 Apr 1888 and annexed into the German Marshall Islands group. With the discovery of rich deposits of Phosphate on the Island the Pacific Phosphate Company was formed, managed by a mix of German, British, Australian and native Nauruan personnel. They started mining in 1906 but with the outbreak of World War I non-German staff were evacuated to the Gilbert and Ellice Islands. When a military force from Melbourne, under the command of Myles Aldington Bloomfield, landed on 9 Sep 1914, the Island's Administrator was arrested forcing a German surrender. Australia, New Zealand, and Britain then jointly administered the country during the remainder of the War and continued to manage mineral extraction, sales and distribution operations thereafter.

In August 1942, during World War II, Japanese troops invaded Nauru intending to make it the centre of Pacific air operations fortifying strategic locations and constructing three airstrips. This made Nauru a target for American bombers intent on suppressing Japanese operations in the Pacific and the island suffered heavy air attacks for the next two years. To make matters worse for the dwindling Nauruan population the Japanese administration deported 1,200 Nauruans to forced labour camps in Chuuk Lagoon (Truk) to assist with military construction projects there. In September 1945, Australian troops took back possession of Nauru and on January 31, 1946, 737 Nauruans returned home, although their numbers were depleted by almost 500 souls. Historian Nancy J. Pollock wrote, "For the Nauruans, the occupation had a profound effect on their society and psychology. Unprotected by the Australians, bombed by the Americans, tormented by the Japanese, and shunned by the Chuukese..." November 1947 saw Nauru become a United Nations trust territory with Australia continuing to provide administration until, in January 31 1968, the anniversary of the return from Truk, the Nauruan flag was raised for the first time over an independent Nauru.

Nauru's postal history began during the German occupation when Marshall Island stamps were used with face values shown in Germany's currency. The first post office, issuing these Marshall Islands stamps, opened in 1908. Stamps from this era are identifiable by their Nauru cancellations. In 1914, occupying Australian and New Zealand troops confiscated the German stamp stock, which was then overprinted "G.R.I." (George Rex Imperator). There are no records of these stamps having been used in Nauru; instead, Australian stamps, overprinted NW Pacific Islands, were used. By 1916, these had been replaced by British stamps overprinted "Nauru." Nauru's first named stamps, the "Freighter" Definitives were printed in 1924 using the British currency with the only variation being a 1935 overprint issue celebrating George V's Jubilee.

The Georgian Era spanned from 1910 until 20th January 1936 when George V was succeeded by Edward VIII although no stamps were issued in Nauru during Edward's short reign and eventual abdication. He was replaced on the throne by his brother George VI and a Coronation set of four side face stamps were issued in 1937. Reprinted "Freighter" definitives were also issued in 1937, remaining in use until the Japanese invasion in 1942. Re-issued after the war these remained in circulation until 1954. There were no Japanese stamps issued in Nauru during the War.

Queen Elizabeth II reigned as head of state from 1952 until the independence declaration of Nauru in 1968. The only issue during this period was the "Native Scenes and Wild Life" series first issued in 1954. These were reprinted in 1966 using the decimal currency of the Australian dollar, later overprinted in 1968 with "Republic of Nauru." In 1969 a Republic of Nauru set of 3 stamps was released with a re-issue of the overprinted 15 cent stamp, depicting the RON Flag, for the 5th Anniversary of Independence. Nauru's first set of Definitives, depicting native Flora and Fauna, was released in 1973.

As new printing methods, improved photography and multi-coloured inks became available the variety of issues increased until the number of annual issues far exceeded the local demand for stamps required for postage purposes. For example, in 2006 a total of 67 new designs were issued. Between 1916 and 2021 there were an estimated 918 new issues with many of these being Cancelled to Order (CTO) for collectors. As a result, finding a genuine stamp used for postal purposes is rare making such stamps a real collectors prize.

COLONIAL RULERS 1859 - 1968

Presidential Number	Picture	Name (Birth-Death)	Term of office		
			Took office	Left office	Time in office
Kaiser #1		Kaiser Wilhelm II (1859 – 1941)	16 April 1888	9 September 1914	26 years 145 days
King #1		King George V (1910 – 1936)	9 September 1914	11th December 1936.	22 years 94 days
King #2		King Edward VIII (1894-1972.)	20 January 1936.	11 December 1936	325 days
King #3		King George VI (1895 – 1952)	11th December 1936.	26 August 1942	5 years 258 days
Emperor #1		Michinomiya Hirohito (1901 – 1989)	26 August 1942	13 September 1945	3 years 18 days
King # 3		King George VI (1895 – 1952)	13 September 1945	6 February 1952	6 years 146 days
Queen #1		Queen Elizabeth II (1926 – 2022)	6 February 1952	31 January 1968	15 years 359 days

(1859 – 1941) KAISER WILHELM II

Stamp numbers #MI 1 to #MI 13

First Issue around August 1908 through to September 1914



First issue of the Era 1908 - 1914



Final Issue of the Era 16/4/14



Kaiser Wilhelm II's Colourised Photo dated 1902

https://www.reddit.com/r/Colorization/comments/83sdl8/kaiser_wilhelm_ii_1902/

Born on 27 January 1859 in Potsdam on the southwest border of Berlin, Kaiser Wilhelm II was the last Emperor of Germany. Christened Friedrich Wilhelm Viktor Albert he was the eldest child of Crown Prince Frederick of Prussia and Victoria, daughter of Queen Victoria of the United Kingdom. After his military service, Wilhelm married Augusta Victoria, Princess of Schleswig-Holstein, they had seven children.

In 1888, Wilhelm's father became Kaiser Frederick III but died shortly afterwards, making Wilhelm the Kaiser, at the age of 29. In this position, he advocated increasing the strength of the German military, particularly the navy, together with aggressive German colonial expansion, whilst also supporting the Boers in the South African Boer War in deference to the British Colonial rule over the Territory. Even though he was closely related to the British royal family and was particularly fond of his grandmother, Queen Victoria, his policies alienated him from Britain.

Following the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand in 1914 Wilhelm offered support to Austria in the event of a war. This action led to the First World War involving Russia, France, Britain and eventually the USA. Although supreme commander of the Triple Alliance, an agreement between Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Italy formed in May 1882, Wilhelm was excluded from the military decisions of other generals and politicians and was unable to force a compromise to end the conflict.

In 1918, with Germany suffering from shortages of men and materials after years of warfare the German military collapsed and Wilhelm was forced to abdicate going into exile in the Netherlands. Hopes of restoration to power in opposition to Adolf Hitler's ascension came to nothing, he died in Doorn, Holland on 4th June 1941.

(1910 – 1936) KING GEORGE V (KGV):

Stamp numbers #KGV 1 to #KGV 38
First Issue July 20th 1916 through to 1936



First Issue of the Era 1916



Final Issue of the Era



King George V's Portrait dated 1915
<https://collectionimages.npg.org.uk/large/mw196514/King-George-V.jpg>

George Frederick Ernest Albert was born on 3rd June 1865 and, when he ascended the throne on the 6th May 1910, inherited the titles of King of the United Kingdom, the British Dominions, and Emperor of India. He died on the 20th January 1936. He was the second son of Edward VII, and the unexpected death of his elder brother Prince Albert Victor, early in 1892, put him directly in line for the throne.

On 23rd January 1901, following the death of Queen Victoria, as Duke of York, he accompanied his father, Edward VII, to the first Privy Council of the new reign at the Banqueting Hall, St James's Palace, London and was the first to swear allegiance to the new King. In May 1901, the Duke opened the first Parliament of the new Commonwealth of Australia, then visited New Zealand, South Africa and Canada. Upon his return to England, King Edward VII bestowed on him the title Prince of Wales; he later visited Berlin in 1902, Austria in 1904, India and Burma in 1905-6

On 6 July 1893, George married Princess Mary of Teck, (Victoria Mary Augusta Louise Olga Pauline Claudine Agnes); his late brother's fiancée. The ceremony was held in the Chapel Royal, St James's Palace and they spent their honeymoon at York Cottage, Sandringham, which was to be their residence for the next 33 years. They had six children, King Edward VIII (later the Duke of Windsor); King George V, the Duke of Gloucester; the Duke of Kent; Prince John and Princess Mary, (Princess Royal), who married George Charles Lascelles, 6th earl of Harewood

He suffered from smoking-related health problems throughout much of his later reign; upon his death his eldest son, Edward VII, succeeded him.

1936 - KING EDWARD VIII

Insert – a rare, un-issued, Australian Definitive.



A photograph of King Edward VIII (<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/>)

King Edward VIII was the King of the United Kingdom and the Dominions of the British Empire and Emperor of India from January 20 to December 11, 1936. He was the eldest son of King George V and Queen Mary. Born June 23, 1894, at White Lodge in Richmond Park, Surrey he was and educated at home and Magdalen College, Oxford and served in the Royal Navy during World War I.

In 1930, Edward met Wallis Simpson, a married American woman however, the British government and the Church of England opposed the marriage because Simpson was divorced. Thus, in December 1936, Edward announced his intention to abdicate the throne in order to marry Simpson. This caused a constitutional crisis, but Edward was eventually allowed to abdicate. He was succeeded by his younger brother, Albert, who became King George VI.

No stamps were issued in Nauru during Edward's reign

(1901 – 1989) EMPEROR MICHINOMIYA HIROHITO

The Japanese Armed forces, under the Rule of Emperor Hirohito, invaded the Island of Nauru in 1942, occupying it until 13 September 1945 when it was liberated by Australian forces. No stamps were issued during that period



Emperor Hirohito aboard the battleship Musashi, 24 June 1943.

Michinomiya Hirohito was born on April 29, 1901, in Tōgū Palace, Aoyama, Japan, to Crown Prince Yoshihito and Crown Princess Sadako and became the 124th Emperor of Japan in 1926 and held the throne for nearly 63 years.

Educated in Japan, Michinomiya became a microbiologist, later developing an interest in marine biology. In 1921, he became the first Japanese crown prince to go abroad, traveling to Europe where he met the English royal family. It was reported that he was enchanted with their freedom and the informality of the palace. After returning home, Hirohito's father retired due to mental illness, and Hirohito was named prince regent, allowing him to conduct royal business in his father's absence. In 1924 at the age of 25 he married the princess Nagako Kuni, and, when he succeeded to the throne the princess became Empress Consort Nagako (1903-2000). They had seven children and the eldest, Akihito, born in 1933, succeeded Michinomiya to the throne.

At the time of Michinomiya's accession Japan was undergoing a financial crisis although the power of military personnel within the Government was on the rise during the run up to WWII. He entered treaties with Nazi Germany and Fascist Italy, giving Japan the support needed to carry out significant military expansion invading and seizing numerous regions in Southeast Asia and the Pacific, including Dutch East Indies, New Guinea, Philippines, and British Singapore. He was also successful in launching a surprise bombing on the US naval base at Pearl Harbour precipitating the Americans entry into the war and the eventual defeat of Japan and the other Axis powers



1986 - 60th Anniversary of the Reign of Hirohito

After the war Michinomiya was allowed to retain his position of Emperor although under pressure from the Allies, the Emperor formally renounced his divinity. In 1947 the new constitution, drafted by the United States, transformed Japan into a constitutional monarchy so that sovereignty lay with the people instead of the emperor. He administered a democratic rule, establish political stability making public appearances and permitting photos and stories of the royal family to be published in newspapers and magazines. He also helped rebuild Japan, turning it into the world's second largest economy at that time.



1959 wedding Crown Prince Akihito and Princess Michiko

Hirohito died in Tokyo on January 7, 1989, aged 87. His son, Akihito, succeeded him becoming Emperor Emeritus of Japan, reigning as the 125th emperor from 7 January 1989 until his abdication on 30 April 2019.

(1895–1952) KING GEORGE VI

<https://www.pinterest.nz/pin/322359285841009637/>

Albert Frederick Arthur George, known as Bertie, was born at York Cottage, Sandringham, Norfolk, on 14th December 1895. He was the second of the five sons and one daughter of George V and Queen Mary and was brought up at York Cottage with his elder brother, Prince Edward (later Edward VIII), and his sister, Princess Mary. Following the abdication of Edward VIII George became King of Great Britain, Ireland, the Dominions of the British Commonwealth, and Emperor of India on 11th December 1936. Crowned at Westminster Abbey in May 1937 he ruled until his death on 6th February 1952 aged 56.

He married Lady Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon in 1923. Elizabeth was the youngest daughter of the Scottish aristocrat Claude Bowes-Lyon, 14th Earl of Strathmore and Kinghorne. They had two children Elizabeth, who became Queen Elizabeth II and Margaret, later Princess Margaret.

King George VI became a powerful figurehead for Britain and the Commonwealth during World War I, famously displaying his bravery, resilience and solidarity with his subjects by refusing to relocate his family to the safety of Canada. Not only that, but he actively entered more dangerous situations by visiting his armed forces on the many battlefronts including Normandy, ten days after D-Day. The King and Queen also visited bombed areas of London during the Blitz, taking a keen interest in damage repair caused by air raids. The need to provide more of a public presence to support the British people made King George VI determined to overcome his severe stammer and continue radio broadcasts to the Commonwealth. After the war, he supported and oversaw the development of Great Britain into a welfare state.

George relinquished the title of Emperor of India in June 1948 and instead adopted the new title of Head of the Commonwealth. He had smoking-related health problems in his later years and died of coronary thrombosis in 1952 to be succeeded by his daughter, Elizabeth II.

(1926–2022) QUEEN ELIZABETH II



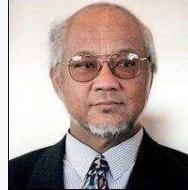
<https://empress-alexandra.tumblr.com/post/119122112800/queen-elizabeth-ii-1950s>

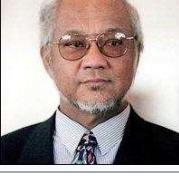
Elizabeth Alexandra Mary became Queen Elizabeth II on February 6, 1952, following the death of her father King George VI. She was born on April 21, 1926, at 17 Bruton Street, Mayfair, London, a townhouse belonging to her grandparents, Claude and Cecilia, the 14th Earl and Countess of Strathmore and Kinghorne. Claude and Cecilia were the parents of (Queen Elizabeth) The Queen Mother, then known as the Duchess of York, who was married to Prince Albert, then the Duke of York. The Yorks' had been living in the house for just a few weeks when Elizabeth gave birth to her first daughter by caesarean section, at 2.40 am on Wednesday, April 21 1926. The young Princess went on to become 'heir presumptive' to the throne, when Edward VIII abdicated. During World War II Princess Elizabeth and her sister, Princess Margaret, spent much of their time safely away from London and the blitz, living mostly at Balmoral Castle in Scotland, the Royal Lodge in Windsor, and Windsor Castle.

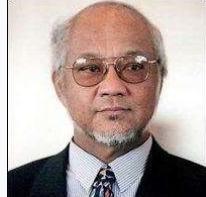
At the age of 21, Princess Elizabeth married her distant cousin, Lieutenant Philip Mountbatten, formerly Prince Philip of Greece and Denmark, in Westminster Abbey on November 20, 1947. On the eve of the wedding her father, King George V, conferred the title of Duke of Edinburgh on Prince Philip. Their first child, Prince Charles (Charles Philip Arthur George), later King Charles III, was born on November 14, 1948, at Buckingham Palace.

By 1951 the health of King George VI was in serious decline, and Princess Elizabeth represented him at the Trooping the Colour and various other state occasions in Canada and Washington, D.C. Later she and the Duke set out on a tour of Kenya, Australia and New Zealand. This was cancelled enroute when Elizabeth received news of her father's death and her accession to the throne. The first three months of her reign, the period of full mourning for her father, were passed in comparative seclusion. That summer she undertook the routine duties of the sovereign and carried out her first state opening of Parliament on November 4, 1952. Her coronation was held at Westminster Abbey on June 2, 1953. Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Phillip visited Nauru aboard the Royal Yacht Britannia during a visit to Micronesia in October 1982. In 2015, she surpassed Queen Victoria to become the longest-reigning monarch in British history eventually reigning for over 70 years. She died at Balmoral, on 8th September 2022.

1968 – 2022 PRESIDENTIAL HISTORY

Presidential Number	Picture	Name (Birth-Death)	Term of office		
			Took office	Left office	Time in office
President #1		Hammer DeRoburt (1922–1992)	31 Jan 1968	22 Dec 1976	8 years, 326 days
President #2		Bernard Dowiyogo (1946–2003)	22 December 1976	19 December 1978	1 year, 361 days
President #3		Lagumot Harris (1938–1999)	19 December 1978	23 December 1978	4 days
Second Term (1)		Hammer DeRoburt (1922–1992)	23 December 1978	17 September 1986	7 years, 268 days
President #4 (Image required)		Kennan Adeang (1942–2011)	17 September 1986	1 October 1986	14 days
Third Term (1)		Hammer DeRoburt (1922–1992)	1 October 1986	12 December 1986	72 days
Second Term (4) (Image required)		Kennan Adeang (1942–2011)	12 December 1986	22 December 1986	10 days

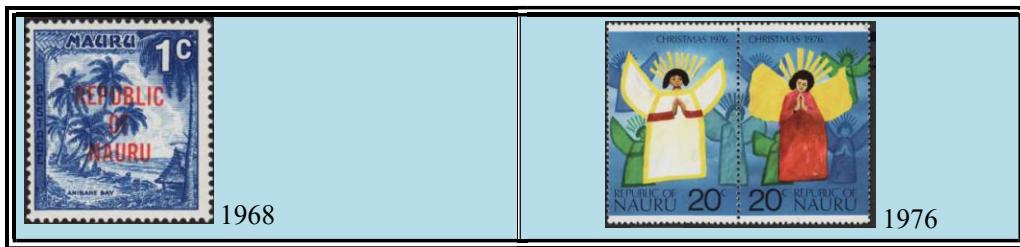
Fourth Term (1)		Hammer DeRoburt (1922–1992)	22 December 1986	17 August 1989	2 years, 239 days
President #5		Kenas Aroi (1942–1991)	17 August 1989	12 December 1989	117 days
Second Term (2)		Bernard Dowiyogo (1946–2003)	12 December 1989	22 November 1995	5 years, 344 days
Second Term (3)		Lagumot Harris (1938–1999)	22 November 1995	11 November 1996	355 days
Third Term (2)		Bernard Dowiyogo (1946–2003)	11 November 1996	26 November 1996	15 days
Third Term (4) Image required		Kennan Adeang (1942–2011)	26 November 1996	19 December 1996	23 days
President #6		Ruben Kun (1942–2014)	19 December 1996	13 February 1997	56 days
President #7		Kinza Clodumar (1945–2021)	13 February 1997	18 June 1998	1 year, 126 days
Fourth Term (2)		Bernard Dowiyogo (1946–2003)	18 June 1998	27 April 1999	313 days

President #8		René Harris (1947–2008)	27 April 1999	20 April 2000	359 days
Fifth Term (2)		Bernard Dowiyogo (1946–2003)	20 April 2000	30 March 2001	344 days
Second Term (8)		René Harris (1947–2008)	30 March 2001	9 January 2003	1 year, 283 days
Sixth Term (2)		Bernard Dowiyogo (1946–2003)	9 January 2003	17 January 2003	8 days
Third Term (8)		René Harris (1947–2008)	17 January 2003	18 January 2003	1 day
Seventh Term (2)		Bernard Dowiyogo (1946–2003)	18 January 2003	9 March 2003	50 days
President #9		Derog Gioura (1932–2008)	10 March 2003	29 May 2003	80 days
President #10		Ludwig Scotty (1948)	29 May 2003	8 August 2003	71 days

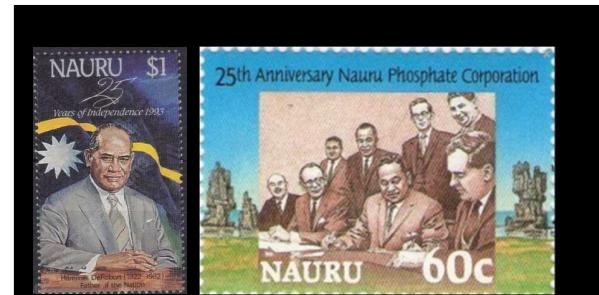
Fourth Term (8)		René Harris (1947–2008)	8 August 2003	22 June 2004 ^[3]	319 days
Second Term (10)		Ludwig Scotty (1948)	22 June 2004	19 December 2007	3 years, 179 days
President #11		Marcus Stephen (1969)	19 December 2007	10 November 2011	3 years, 326 days
President #12		Freddie Pitcher (1967)	10 November 2011	15 November 2011	5 days
President #13		Sprent Dabwido (1972–2019)	15 November 2011	11 June 2013	1 year, 209 days
President #14		Baron Waqa (1959)	11 June 2013	27 August 2019	6 years, 76 days
President #15		Lionel Aingimea (1969)	27 August 2019	27 September 2022	3 years, 30 days
President #16		Russ Kun (1975)	27 September 2022	Incumbent	

(1923 – 1992) PRESIDENT HAMMER DEROBURT

First and Last Stamps issued during his first Presidential term



Hammer DeRoburt (1923 - 1992)



Hammer DeRoburt (1922–1992), head chief of the Island Nation of Nauru, was elected to the position of President in 1968 and retained that position, albeit with some intermissions, until 1988. Born on 25 September 1922 he was the first son of DeRoburt and Eidumunang whose father, Daimon, was also head chief of Nauru (1920–30).

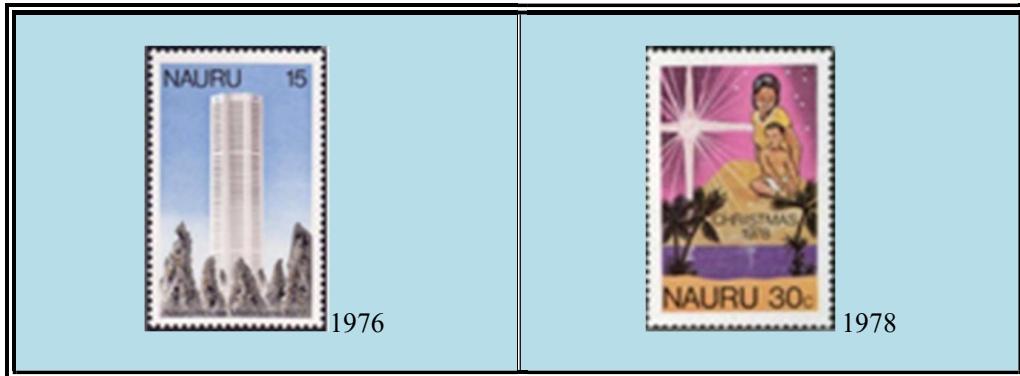
Raised in the district of Boe, Hammer DeRoburt was educated at the Nauru Boys' Secondary School. In the late 1930s, he and several other boys were sponsored by Harold Hurst, an Australian boy scout's commissioner, to attend Geelong Junior Technical School in Victoria. Returning to Nauru, he took up a position as a teacher (1940–42) until he was exiled to Truk (Chuuk) along with one thousand two hundred other Nauruans by the Japanese military who occupied Nauru during World War II. He was among the fewer than eight hundred to survive and returned to find Nauru devastated and polluted by the Japanese occupying force while the mine had been destroyed by Allied bombing.

Rebuilding the nation was a high priority for survivors and the Nauru Local Government Council was formed in 1955 to administer their affairs. This Council elected him Head Chief of Nauru and he remained at the centre of political life for more than 30 years leading negotiations for local control over Nauru's phosphate industry and for political independence from Australia.

Hammer DeRoburt was displaced during his term by Bernard Dowiyogo, Lagumot Harris, Kennan Adeang and succeeded by Kenas Aroi: he was awarded an OBE in 1966 then later given an honorary knighthood by Queen Elizabeth II.

(1946 – 2003) PRESIDENT BERNARD DOWIYOGO

First and Last Stamps Issued During His First Presidential Term



Bernard Dowiyogo (1946 – 2003)
https://www.azquotes.com/author/45568-Bernard_Dowiyogo



Bernard Dowiyogo was born on February 14th 1946 in the district of Ubenide; educated at the Nauru Boys' Secondary School he later graduated in Law from the Australian National University.

For 30 years, President Dowiyogo, like his predecessor, was a central figure in Nauru public life. Becoming an elected member of Nauru's 18-seat Parliament in 1973 he variously held the Ministerial positions of Justice, Health and Education, Civil Aviation, Island Development and Industry, External Affairs, and Public Service. Additionally, he was Chairman of the Bank of Nauru, Secretary of the Nauru General Hospital, General Manager of the Nauru Cooperative Society and founded the Nauru Institute of Media and Communications.

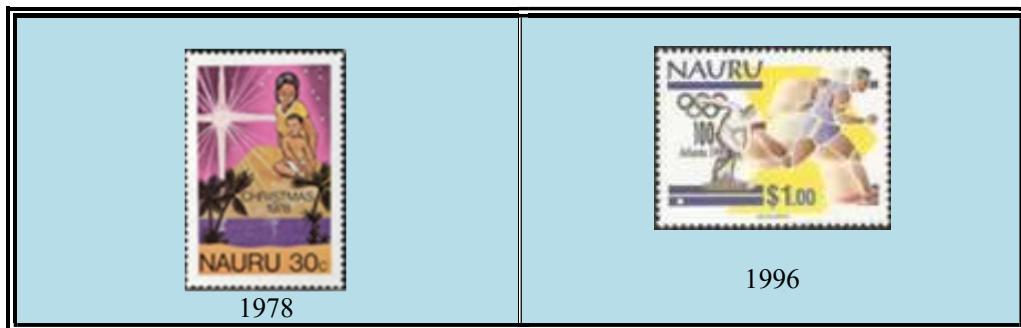
In the 1989 Elections, he succeeded Kenas Aroi as President, a position he held six times between 1989 and 2003, being displaced during his term by Lagumot Harris, Kennan Adeang, Ruben Kun, Kinza Clodumar and Rene Harris. Following his death in 2003 he was succeeded by Derog Gioura

President Dowiyogo earned a reputation as a pragmatic, sensible and business-like leader but radically, for the time, sharply criticized France for its series of nuclear tests in French Polynesia and the United States for devastating parts of the Marshall Islands, with contamination from nuclear tests there and missile tests at Kwajalein atoll. He also famously rebuked the UN over their inactivity over the treatment of West Papua natives by stating, "The United Nations cannot stand by and witness the destruction of the people of West Papua."

He died in office in March 2003 at George Washington University Hospital, D.C. from heart complications brought on by his struggle with diabetes. At the time of the deterioration of his final illness, he had been engaged in protracted negotiations with the United States Government. In 1990, President Dowiyogo was awarded the New Zealand Commemoration Medal.

(1938 – 1999) PRESIDENT LAGUMOT HARRIS

First and Last Stamps in circulation or issued during his Presidential terms



Lagumot Harris (1938–1999)

Lagumot Gagiemem Nimidere Harris was born on December 28th, 1938, in the district of Boe. His parents were Susy Detudamo and Phillip Harris. Initially attending school in Nauru, Lagumot gained qualifications in Civil Engineering in Australia and followed a successful career in that discipline. He married Amanda Hams and had ten children.

Initially working for the community as a pastor of the Nauru Congregational Church and the Independent Church in Boe; he was elected to Parliament and served briefly as President of Nauru in 1978. Thus, he was Nauru's third head of state since independence in 1968. His second term was from 22 November 1995 until 11 November 1996.

During his tenure, President Harris visited Manila and was chairman of the Nauru Rehabilitation Corporation. Lagumot Harris died in Melbourne, Australia, on 8 September 1999 at the age of 60. No new stamps were issued during Lagumot's first term of office.

(1942 - 2011) PRESIDENT KENNAN ADEANG

Stamps Issued during Kennan's first Presidential term



Kennan Adeang (23 December 1942 – 26 December 2011)

Kennan Ranibok Adeang was born in Nauru, and educated in Nauru and Australia, including at the Australian School of Pacific Administration, which he attended until 1963.

He was first elected to the Parliament of Nauru in 1971 and was notably a motivated opponent of Hammer DeRoburt's policies. Representing the seat of Ubenide, he replaced Derog Gioura but was forced to resign a few months later when Gioura re-took the seat. Kennan was re-elected in 1973 to serve a second term, but again lost his seat to Derog in 1976. In the 1977 elections, Kennan was re-elected but again had to resign however, that unsettling period ended when in 1980, both Derog and Kennan were elected to parliament

In 1986 Kennan became the fourth President of Nauru, elected by a margin of one vote over the incumbent DeRoburt, but was ousted, following a vote of no confidence, after only 14 days. After the general election in December, he was again elected as President only to lose the office following another vote of no confidence.

By 1989 Kennan, Keno Aroi and other opposition members had formed the Democratic Party of Nauru, which had sufficient support to force a vote of no confidence against Hammer DeRoburt. Thus, on August 17, 1989 Keno Aroi was elected as the fifth President of Nauru with Kennan becoming the Finance Minister. This Government only lasted until December 1989, when Keno Aroi, suffering from heart problems, resigned.

Kennan remained in Parliament after Keno's resignation and following the February 1997 election, he served in the Cabinet of President Kinza Clodumar. Early in 1998, in his capacity as Speaker, Adeang required five members of the house to resign, including the former President Lagumot Harris, following remarks made about him in an opposition newsletter. In elections later that year, three of those members were re-elected.

Kennan was a strong believer in the concept of self-determination and autonomy for Nauru and was a driving force behind the nation's independence being a vocal critic of the Australian government's use of Nauru as a phosphate mining site and its exploitation of the island's resources. He was also a key figure in the negotiations of the Compact of Free Association between Nauru and the United States, which allowed for the provision of economic assistance. As a passionate advocate for education and the environment, he tried to ensure that the Nauruan people had access to quality education and health care. He was also a strong supporter of development initiatives aimed at reducing poverty and unemployment in Nauru. Retiring from parliament in April 2000 he was appointed High Commissioner to Fiji. Notably his son, David Adeang, stood in the same constituency as his father and also served in the Nauruan Parliament.

Kennan Adeang died in December 2011.

(1947 - 2008) PRESIDENT RENE HARRIS



Rene Harris speaking to the United Nations



\$10 Liberian commemorative

René Harris was born on November 11, 1947 in Aiwo, Nauru and attended Geelong College in Australia for his secondary education. After completing his studies, he returned to Nauru and worked for the government as a public servant and later from 1987 to 1992 serving as the Chairman of the Nauru Phosphate Corporation (NPC). The corporation had been the sole source of revenue for the government of Nauru for many years, but declining phosphate reserves and lack of equipment maintenance led to decreasing income. René implemented maintenance measures in an attempt to improve production of the plant and indeed Nauru as a whole and worked with the Australian team tasked with the recovery of topside mined areas as part of the Australian rehabilitation effort.

Other measures he implemented included overhauling and upgrading the No. 2 Cantilevers to reduce corrosion, improve phosphate discharge and fuel oil transfer; refurbishing the Marine fleet, buildings and harbour; upgrading the electrostatic precipitators to reduce pollution and improve air quality, refurbishing the freshwater desalination plant and tanks to ensure a reliable supply of clean water, overhauling and upgrading the Island's generating plant to improve the reliability and efficiency of Nauru's power supply, establishing a bottling plant for milk and soft drinks using water fed directly from the desalination plant. He also oversaw refurbishment of the aircraft refuelling systems and tank farm and rebuilt the children's ward and x-ray unit at the RON hospital to improve healthcare services for the population. Overseas he assisted Kiribati with repair works to the house of Te Beretitenti and other areas following a tropical storm

René entered politics in 1973 when he was elected to the Nauru Legislative Council. In the 1977 election won a seat in Parliament, became a member of several committees and served as minister of finance, works, health, justice, education and foreign affairs at different times. He became President of Nauru for the first time in 1999 after ousting Bernard Dowiyogo in a vote of no confidence. Holding the office until 2000 he was replaced by Dowiyogo but was elected for the third time as President in 2001. During his third presidency, he continued to work on economic and social development projects focused on strengthening Nauru's relations with other Pacific Island nations and with Australia, controversially negotiating with Australia to host asylum seekers on Nauru in exchange for financial aid and visa concessions.

Although suffering from diabetes and heart problems, Mr Harris was the country's longest-serving politician, spending 31 years in office but, on July 5th 2000, at the age of 61, René suffered a fatal heart attack. A state funeral was held within hours of his death attended by the then President Marcus Stephen, cabinet members and MPs along with a number of former presidents and members of parliament. The Foreign Minister, Kieren Keke said, "Although Mr Harris was always unorthodox and controversial, there was no denying Nauru had lost one of its most memorable orators and toughest politicians."

Some of this information was based on the personal knowledge and experience of the author who worked closely with René, while other information was gathered by a Microsoft Bing Artificial Intelligence search of other sources including RNZ News, Wikipedia, and NBC News.

**If you enjoyed this Introduction to Nauru's Postal History, please view these
ADDITIONAL CATALOGUES:-**

Album 1 A simplified collection of Nauru's stamps

Album 2 Stamps from the Colonial Era

Album 3 Republic of Nauru Issues

SUNSET ON NAURU



Royalty-free photo from gettyimages.com

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

I lived and worked in Nauru for three years, between 1994 and 1997 initially as Special Projects Manager under Chairman Rene Harris. During that time I completed several projects and represented NPC and Nauru at several overseas conferences. When Brian Blundell, the last Manager of British Phosphate (BPC) and later Manager of Nauru Phosphate (NPC) retired I took over as NPC Manager.

Ex-patriot contracts were usually for 3 years although this period was often shortened under Rene's demanding chairmanship. After completing my term and taking leave I returned to the Island until a replacement manager was found, his term lasted for six weeks.

NAURU (1994 - 1997)



Nauru is an independent nation with a population of 10,670 making it the world's second smallest, after Vatican City. Gaining independence in 1968 revenue from its phosphate deposits once made it the richest nation, per capita, in the Commonwealth. Phosphate is the main ingredient in Super Phosphate fertiliser and shiploads of P₂O₅ were exported to New Zealand, Australia, India and Korea. Initially, the British Phosphate Commissioners carried out the mining but in 1967, the Republic of Nauru purchased the assets, continuing to mine the diminishing reserve.

The infrastructure, built by British Phosphate, was still in place and our accommodation was a large colonial-style house with air conditioning, pool and garden.

Initially employed as **Special Projects Manager I** I looked after such diverse projects as "aircraft sales", hospital and power station upgrades and the Chairman's soft drinks factory. Impossible? I ordered a 150 x 60 metre "shed," an Oz bottling plant and Noddy's (*Nauru's National Bird*) soft drinks were in production within 6 months.

Glynis also found work on the island too when the Australian Embassy recruited her. She held a role until the Embassy closed and was presented with an official certificate of thanks by the Ambassador when he left. Staff from the embassy team still send us Christmas cards.



House M.Q.2. Arijejenn, Nauru



Ship loading Cantilever loading phosphate ore

Not all of our time was spent on the island, we had access to Nauru Airways flights and the position required numerous overseas visits. These included Kiribati, Fiji, Hawaii, Samoa, Australia and Singapore. Most of the ex-patriot staff were Australian and some resented my ability to 'get things done.' The Nauruans however, appreciated my efforts, the President thanking me personally, while the Board promoted me to **General Manager**, assigned us a new house and contract.

At the end of our first term we were given a 3 month holiday and took a "round the world" trip mostly paid for by our repatriation 1st Class Airfares.

We were often invited to official functions meeting other countries Ambassadors, even the occasional President. At one function I noticed our President and his wife sitting alone after he had a tiff in Parliament. As we were politically neutral we went and sat with them, chatting until he was called away on business.

When we finally left Nauru we were farewelled by the Chairman, who later became President, and given a Nauruan farewell, normally never given to foreigners, feeling very special we were sad to leave.



Tuvalu National day celebrations